

From: Wildcat
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 1:57pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I certainly hope you take into account that the effects of Microsoft's business practices are **still** being felt, even today... A brand new computer with anything **other** than Windows on-board is still almost unheard of, many hardware manufacturers don't support Linux or offer drivers for it, and many corporate websites are designed almost exclusively for Internet Explorer in **spite** of the W3C standards that are meant to make the "World Wide Web" more accessible to **all** available browsers.

I realize that these last two points (drivers and web design) are almost entirely due to the preferences of the manufacturers and designers respectively, but those people are basing those decisions on the atmosphere fostered by Microsoft that it is and shall be the only creator of operating system and web browser software.

Recently, I experienced this form of "browser discrimination" firsthand. My browser of choice is Netscape, and I was finding it difficult to access a major retailer's website and on-line shopping outlet -- my browser kept choking out. I e-mailed a report of this technical glitch, and received a reply suggesting I use Internet Explorer. To me (to use an analogy), this is like being unable to get a clear picture of CNN from my cable company, only to be told that my RCA television is the problem, and that the CNN signal is designed specifically for a Sony.

The bottom line is, I've never been a big fan of Microsoft, and would really rather not give them my money, but as long as they're allowed to operate as they have in the past decade, they're going to wind up with a share of the profit on almost anything I buy, whether I know it or not, whether I **like** it or not.

Thank you for allowing me to state my opinion.

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